

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23, and 31-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 15, 23, 31, and 39 are amended. No claims are cancelled or added by this amendment. Claims 1, 15, 23, 31, and 41 are independent.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge that the drawings have been accepted by the USPTO or identify any deficiencies believed to be present in the drawings so the Applicants have an adequate opportunity to traverse and/or address any identified deficiencies.

Personal Interview

Initially, Applicants thank Examiner Gupta and Supervisory Examiner Young for granting the personal interview conducted on October 3, 2007. During the interview, Applicants' representative explained how claim 1, amended as shown in the preceding section, distinguishes over Kuroda et al. (US Patent Number 6,735,155, herein Kuroda). In particular, amended claim 1 recites, inter alia, "a linking area to link neighboring data sections, the linking area including at least two linking frames, each linking frame including both at least one sync signal and dummy data, wherein the dummy data is located behind the at least one sync signal in each linking frame," and Examiner Gupta and Supervisory Examiner Young agreed the cited references at least fail to disclose the emphasized features of amended claim 1. However, Examiner Gupta and Supervisory Examiner Young indicated that support in the application must be identified to avoid a possible 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Accordingly, the following section identifies support for the emphasized features of the claims.

Support for Claim Amendments

Figs. 4A-4C clearly illustrate each linking frame including a frame sync signal FS located at the beginning of each linking frame of a linking area. The linking frame is then followed by additional information. In each of Figs. 4A-4C, there is user data located in each linking frame after the frame sync signal FS. In Fig. 4C, the user data directly follows the frame sync signal FS. Further, paragraph [0149] of Applicant's specification states the following.

In case that useful data for anti-piracy or servo-control is not written in the user data space, although two recording frames are formed in a linking area of a BD-ROM to ensure reproducing compatibility with a BD-RE, *the user data space may be filled with an arbitrary value, e.g. '00h' as shown in Fig. 14a. A series of such a filling value is called dummy data.*

In light of the above, Applicants submit the amendment to independent claims 1 and independent claims 15, 23, 31 and 39 are fully supported by the specification and figures.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 31-33, 35-36, and 39-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Kuroda. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as detailed below.

As discussed during the personal interview, FIG. 7 of Kuroda illustrates that when a new data section is added to the recording medium of Kuroda, the head position of the old dummy data is detected and the new recording begins at the second sync frame 42 located at the end of the original recording. The second sync frame 42 is overwritten by the new record information and becomes in fact broken due to the overwriting of data. FIG. 7 illustrates the broken data as D. Subsequent to the broken data area is written the remainder of the new recording unit, followed by successive recording units. However, the second sync frame 42 of the linking area 44 does not include an ID, which the Examiner asserts is a sync signal.

As agreed during the interview, Kuroda at least fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a linking area to link neighboring data sections, the linking area including at least two linking

frames, each linking frame including both at least one sync signal and dummy data, wherein the dummy data is located behind the at least one sync signal in each linking frame," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over Kuroda. Furthermore, because independent claims 15, 23, 31, 39 and 41 include features similar to independent claim 1, these claims are allowable over Kuroda for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. With regards to the claims depending from independent claims 1, 15, 23 and 31, these claims are allowable at least because of their dependence on an allowable base claim.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 31-33, 35-36, and 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 7, 13, 18, 21-22, 34, and 37-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kuroda in view of Ueda et al. (US Patent Publication 2001/0026511, herein Ueda). Applicants respectfully submit that Ueda fails to cure the deficiencies of Kuroda described above with respect to the independent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the listed dependent claims are patentable over Kuroda in view of Ueda et al. at least because their dependence on an allowable base claim, the basis for such allowance being previously set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott A. Elchert at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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